



# Conversation with Latine business owners



On May 10, 2024, Office of Community Safety staff facilitated an event at Waite House for Latine business owners. The conversation involved around 11 individuals. The meeting took place primarily in Spanish.

After welcoming words from the Latino Business Association and a presentation about the concept of community safety centers, participants engaged in an activity and conversation about what services are important in the community safety centers. Participants reflected on themes that came up from other conversations with the Latine community rather than the general themes. Ideas were shared for both the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center and the Lake Street Safety Center.

For the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center these five themes had the most support:

- Addiction Prevention Program
- Language Classes
- Emergency assistance funds
- Domestic violence prevention programs
- Legal assistance clinics

The following other resources or building uses were discussed:

- Interpretation assistance and a connector to direct people to resources

For the Lake Street Safety Center these five ideas had the most support:

- Network of community volunteers to offer help and resources to immigrants
  - orientation, translation, and mentoring
- Social skills development programs
  - organizing workshops and activities to help immigrants to improve their capacity to establish interpersonal relations and develop social skills
- Interpretation and translation services
- Family counseling
- Elderly support programming

Other comments:

- The Lake Street site should be permanent and should include police
- More police are needed in the area. There are 4 or 5 cops are in wealthier neighborhoods and nothing bad happens but in our neighborhood only a couple of cops. Something is not working here
- Meetings are needed to reestablish police relationship with communities